

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached new Replacement Sheets are submitted to replace the less formal original Drawings, and do not include new matter but instead include identical subject matter as in the originals. Because no changes are made to individual FIGS., there are no Annotated Sheets included herewith.

Entry is respectfully requested.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (3), including FIGS. 1 – 3.

Remarks/Arguments:

Page 7 of the Specification is amended to correct a typographical error, namely to replace the numeral 11 with the correct numeral 61. Numeral 11 refers to Applicant's apparatus and not to a member. It is also clear that Applicant is discussing the adjustable member 61 at this location, particularly considering the previous two sentences leading to this correction. Finally, it is understood that only the member 61 can function to define the precise spacing between the under surface of base 25 and base member 15's upper surface. Compare especially FIGS. 1 and 3. This amending does not, therefore, constitute the addition of new matter and entry is urged.

Formal Drawings are included herewith, each of these appropriately identified as Replacement Sheets for the original, much less formal Drawings provided at filing. As mentioned above, these include identical subject matter as originally submitted and do not include new matter. Entry is urged.

Originally submitted claims 1 – 20 are cancelled and new claims 21 – 36 provided.

New independent apparatus claim 21 includes the limitations of previous claims 1, 2, 9 and 10, and thus include subject matter held allowable by the Examiner in the Office Action. Allowance is urged. Dependent claims 22 – 32 include similar limitations to previously submitted dependent claims, but now depend directly or indirectly from new claim 21, and are thus also deemed allowable. Allowance is urged.

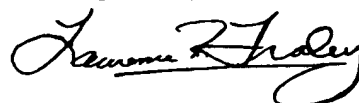
New independent method claim 33 includes similar limitations as claim 21, albeit in method format. Claim 33 is also thus considered allowable and allowance thereof is urged. New dependent claims 34 – 36 include similar limitations as previous dependent claims from original claim 16, but now depend directly or indirectly from new claim 33 and thus from subject matter deemed allowable. Allowance of these claims is also urged.

Regarding the objection of previous claims 14 and 15, the limitations of which are now in new claims 31 and 32 (claim 31 including further defining language over claim 14), Applicant respectfully submits that the pneumatically driven member (i.e., the actuating piston 81 in FIG. 3) is adapted for engaging the invention's cover 27 and is, therefore, a part of the claimed apparatus. Admittedly, the opposing part (base member 15 and/or the internally contained compressible probe members 19) of the apparatus must also be engaged (i.e., by a substrate such as 51) to counter the force (F, in FIG. 3) being downwardly applied, but Applicant does not exclude such added structure, only claiming that the structure for bringing the elements together includes this pneumatically driven member. Such language does not exclude the addition of other structure or elements, and is proper. Such language is also proper when used in a dependent claim to define a structure which comes into engagement with a part of an apparatus defined in a preceding independent claim. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art will clearly understand that one who utilizes such a pneumatically driven member as one element of a structure including two or more elements to bring the claimed compressible housing and base members together in the manner claimed by Applicant does indeed infringe claim 31 (and claim 32 if the driven member includes a piston). Applicant respectfully submits that the objection is overcome and withdrawal thereof urged.

The newly cited patents to Hoshino (6,270,356) and Chang (5,500,605) fail to teach or suggest the presently claimed invention. Any rejection based on one or both of these is thus deemed overcome.

The Application is deemed in condition for allowance, and such action on the part of the Examiner is respectfully urged. Should the Examiner believe, however, that minor differences may remain which, if overcome, will result in allowance of this Application and that said differences may be openly discussed in a telephone conversation, the Examiner is respectfully requested to phone the undersigned to discuss such differences and hopefully resolve same, thereby expediting prosecution of this Application.

Respectfully submitted,



Dated: September 21, 2005
Telephone: 561-575-3608
Fax: 561-745-2741

By: Lawrence R. Fraley
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 26,885